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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,126	11/25/2003	Donald R. Gilbreath	C02-085A	9442
26683 7590 12/13/2007 THE GATES CORPORATION IP LAW DEPT. 10-A3 1551 WEWATTA STREET DENVER, CO 80202			EXAMINER DUNWOODY, AARON M	
			ART UNIT 3679	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/13/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/723,126	Applicant(s) GILBREATH, DONALD R.	
	Examiner Aaron M. Dunwoody	Art Unit 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 6318763, Huang in view of US patent 5709413, Salyers.

In regards to claims 1 and 2, Huang discloses an improved hydraulic fitting having a stem (10) including a hose insert portion, and a collar support portion, having a mating connection portion, and a collar having, a torque communication portion, a female support portion, and an inner periphery extending through the ferrule support portion and the torque communication portion, the improvement comprising:

the collar support portion including a *spline* and an axial stop ring (see Figure 4 below),

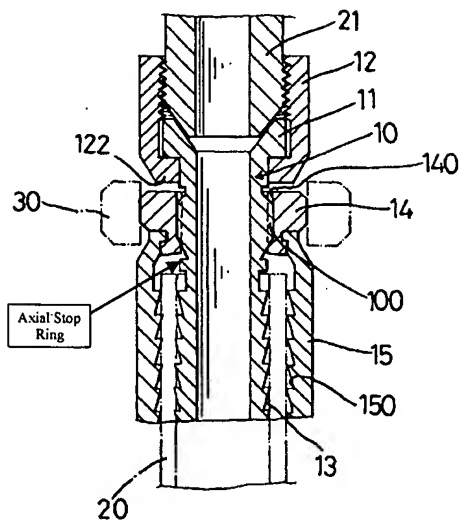


FIG. 4

the torque communication portion adapted to be staked in such a manner that the inner periphery extending through the torque communication portion communicates with the knurling in a relatively non-rotational manner, and

the ferrule support portion adapted to be staked in such a manner that the inner periphery extending through the ferrule support portion communicates with the axial stop ring in an axial movement limiting manner.

Huang does not disclose the collar support portion including knurling. Salyer teaches substituting splines (801) and knurling (724), "so that the tubing is effectively gripped" (col. 7, line 46-47). As Salyer relates to fittings for fluidic devices, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the splines Huang with the knurling of Salyer, so that the tubing is effectively gripped, as taught by Salyer.

In regards to claim 3, Huang discloses a ferrule (15) affixed upon the ferrule support portion.

In regards to claim 4, Huang in view of Salyer discloses a hydraulic coupling and hose (20) comprising:

a hose end fitting including a stem having a hose insert portion, and a collar support portion,

the collar support portion including knurling and an axial stop ring,

a collar having, a torque communication portion, a female support portion, and an inner periphery extending through the ferrule support portion and the torque communication portion,

the torque communication portion being staked such that the inner periphery extending through the torque communication portion communicates with the knurling in a relatively non-rotational manner, the ferrule support portion being staked such that the inner periphery extending through the ferrule support portion communicates with the axial stop ring in an axial movement limiting manner, a mating connection portion, the hose fitted upon the hose end fitting,

an apparatus fitting, and

the apparatus fitting sealingly mated to the mating connection portion of the hose end fitting.

In regards to claim 5, Huang discloses a ferrule staked upon the ferrule support portion and the hose crimped under the female.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/5/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. The Examiner disagrees. The rejection above clearly establishes a prima facie case of obviousness.

Applicant argues that Huang fails to disclose at least said collar support portion including an axial stop ring. The Examiner disagrees. As illustrated above, Huang clearly illustrates at least said collar support portion including an axial stop ring.

Applicant argues that Huang fails to disclose the ferrule support portion adapted to be staked in such a manner that the inner periphery extending through the ferrule support portion communicates with the axial stop ring in an axial movement limiting manner. The Examiner disagrees. It has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchison*, 69 USPQ 138. The ferrule support portion of Huang is fully capable of being adapted to be staked in such a manner that the inner periphery extending through the ferrule support portion communicates with the axial stop ring in an axial movement limiting manner.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention

where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, as Salyer relates to fittings for fluidic devices, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the splines Huang with the knurling of Salyer, so that the tubing is effectively gripped, as taught by Salyer.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

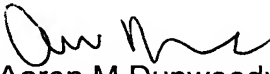
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Dunwoody whose telephone number is 571-272-7080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Aaron M Dunwoody
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679

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